

MARVEL

#4

HASTINGS
FLAVIANO
MENYZ

I AM GROOT



A BODY AS STRONG AS A REDWOOD, LIMBS THAT EXTEND LIKE VINES, AND WITH THE ABILITY TO REGROW FROM A SPLINTER . . . GROOT WAS THE BIGGEST AND STRONGEST MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY. BUT NOW, HE'S STUCK AT THE SIZE OF A SAPLING. THE GALAXY CAN BE A DANGEROUS PLACE FOR A LITTLE TREE WHO DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING BUT . . .



I AM GROOT

in
"THE FORGOTTEN DOOR"
— part 4 —

GROOT IS STRANDED ON TERMINAL--A PEACEFUL PLANET PLAGUED BY TIME-SPACE STORMS THAT CAN SPEED AGING, TRANSPORT THINGS (LIKE GROOT!) ACROSS THE UNIVERSE AND MORE. FRIENDLY BUT FORGETFUL LOCALS DIPLATESSA, DHAMSUS, AND BUDDY COMMANDEERED A TRAIN TO TAKE GROOT TO THE CARETAKER, HOPING HE WOULD USE THE "DOOR OF DOORS"--A PATHWAY TO OTHER GALAXIES--TO SEND GROOT HOME. BUT THEIR JOURNEY WAS INTERRUPTED BY A MESSAGE FROM TERMINAL'S ADMINISTRATOR, CALLING GROOT THE "SLAUGHTER SEED" PROPHECIZED TO OPEN THE DOOR AND DESTROY THE PLANET. THE GROUP EVADED ROBOTS THE ADMINISTRATOR SENT AFTER THEM, BUT BUDDY, TERRIFIED BY THE MESSAGE, BETRAYED GROOT, PUSHING HIM OUT OF THE TRAIN AND INTO A STORM . . .

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Groot created by Stan Lee, Larry Lieber & Jack Kirby

I AM
GROOOOOOT!!!

IN A TIME-SPACE
STORM ABOVE
TERMINAL.

FIND THAT
PORTAL, QUILL.
I'M NOT GIVIN'
UP ON GROOT!

ROCKET...
IT'S BEEN
YEARS
NOW...

A STORM IS
RAW, CHAOTIC, PURE
SPACE-TIME FORCE.
IT BROUGHT YOU HERE
FROM FAR AWAY, MAYBE
NOT JUST THE
DISTANCE, BUT TIME
AS WELL.

WELCOME TO
TERMINAL! YOUR
COMFORT IS OUR TOP
PRIORITY DURING
YOUR LAYOVER.

HA HA, HEY,
THIS BELLHOP
LOOKS LIKE MY
GRANDPA!
MAKES ME
FEEL...

...PRETTY DARN
COMFORTABLE,
ACTUALLY!

OUR NEXT
CONNECTION
IS *777*-ERROR.
TERMINAL EYE NOW
LOOKING TO
777-ERROR.

TERMINAL
EYE NOW
LOOKING TO
777-ERROR.

WHAT IS
THAT?



I SEE
YOU.

SEED OF
SLAUGHTER.

GROOT.

I KNOW
YOU.

FREE
ME.

TERMINAL
EYE NOW
LOOKING TO
777-ERROR.

I AM
GROOT!

SPLIT

AGRGH!

I AM
GROOT?



I AM
GROOT.

I AM
GROOT?!

I AM
GROOT.

I AM...
GROOT.

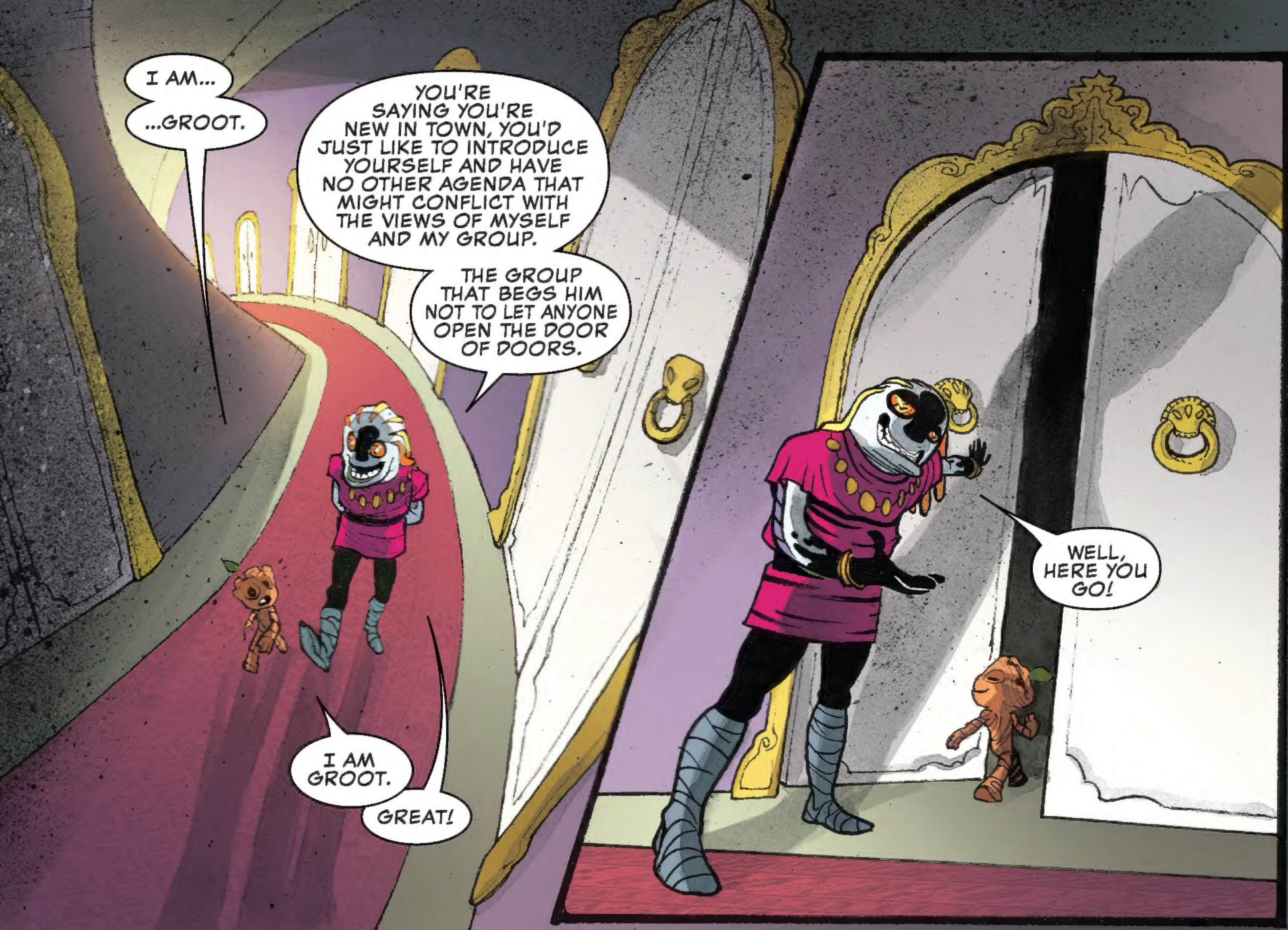
I AM
GROOT!
I AM
GROOT!

I AM
GROOT.
I AM...

...GROOT.







YOU'RE SAYING YOU'RE NEW IN TOWN, YOU'D JUST LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND HAVE NO OTHER AGENDA THAT MIGHT CONFLICT WITH THE VIEWS OF MYSELF AND MY GROUP.

THE GROUP THAT BEGS HIM NOT TO LET ANYONE OPEN THE DOOR OF DOORS.

WELL, HERE YOU GO!

I AM GROOT.

GREAT!



...USER GROOT'S REQUEST HAS BEEN FULFILLED.



HELLO, GROOT.

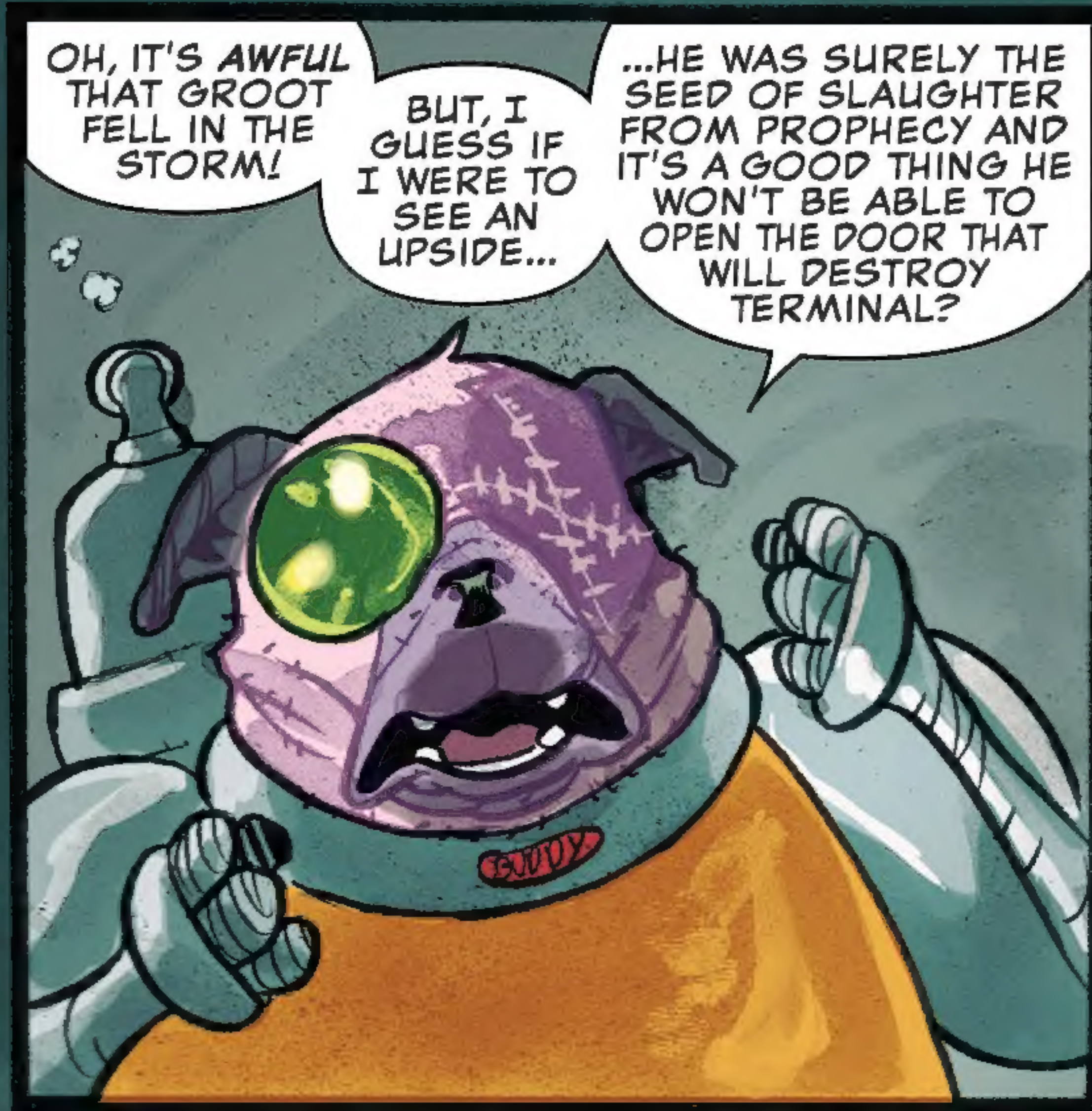
I AM GROOT?

OH, IF ANY OF THOSE ACTUAL NUTS OUT THERE COULD UNDERSTAND YOU...

...THEY'D KNOW TO TELL YOU THE CARETAKER SEES...

...NO ONE.

MEANWHILE, UNDER
THE DESERT OF THE
TERMINAL EYE...





NOW LISTEN TO ME, TREE. YOU MAY BE NEW, BUT YOU WILL ACCLIMATE TO LIFE HERE.

TERMINAL IS PERFECT AS IS, AND SOON ENOUGH YOU'LL FORGET EVER WANTING IT TO CHANGE.



EVERYONE DOES.

JUST TAKES THE RIGHT STORM TO COME ALONG AND--



I AM GROOT!

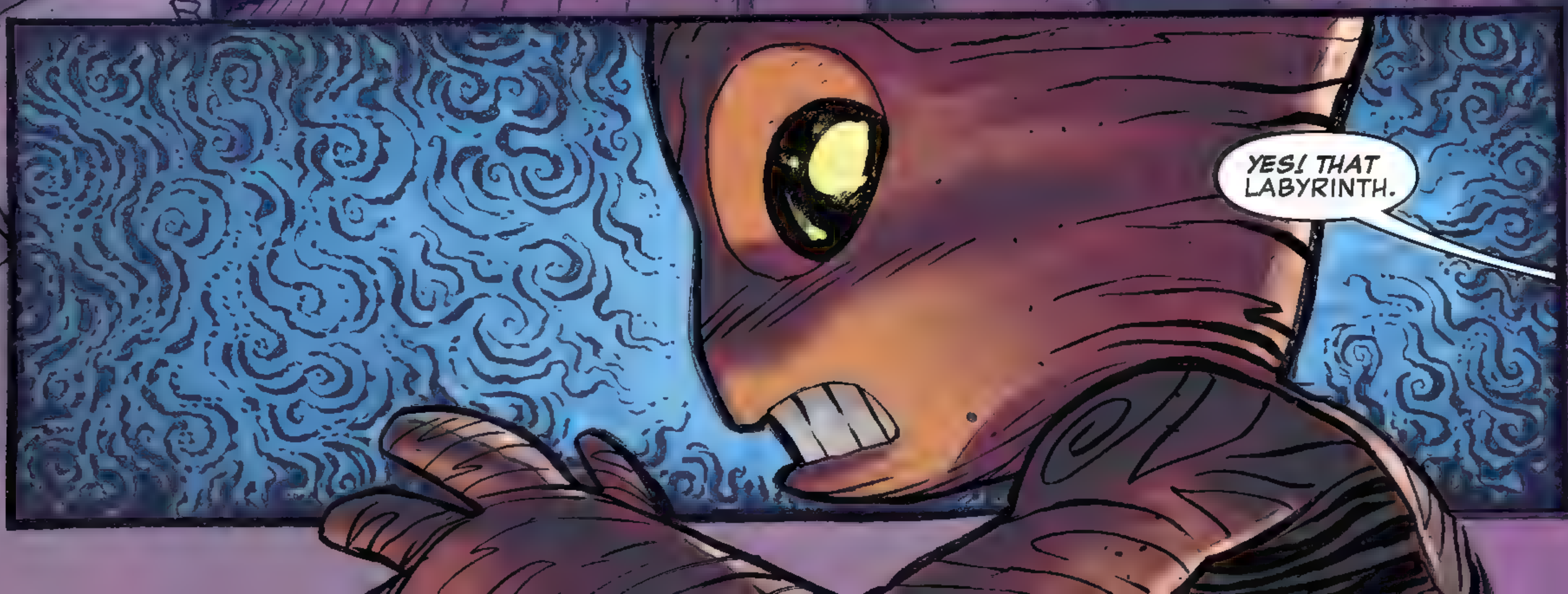
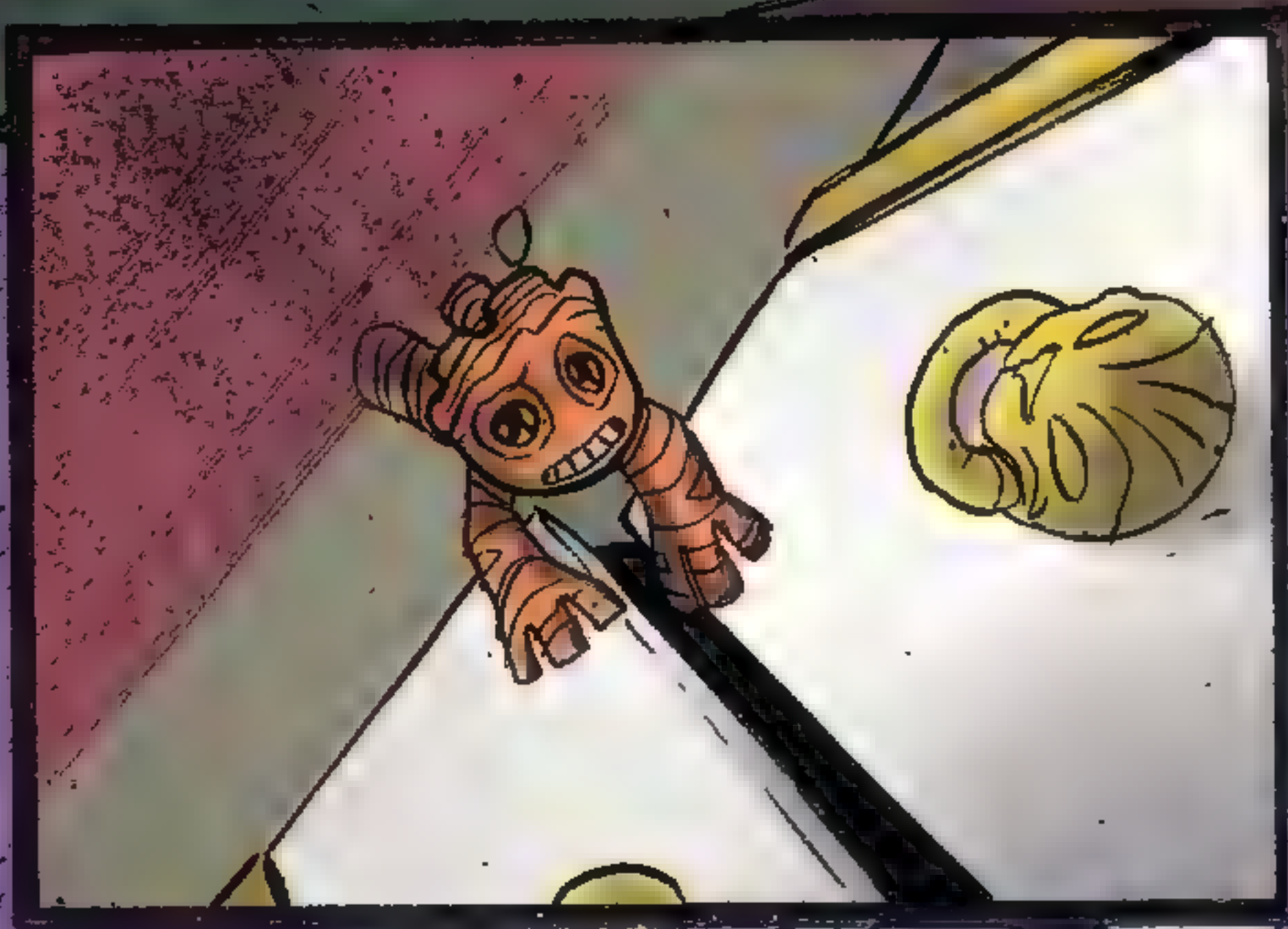
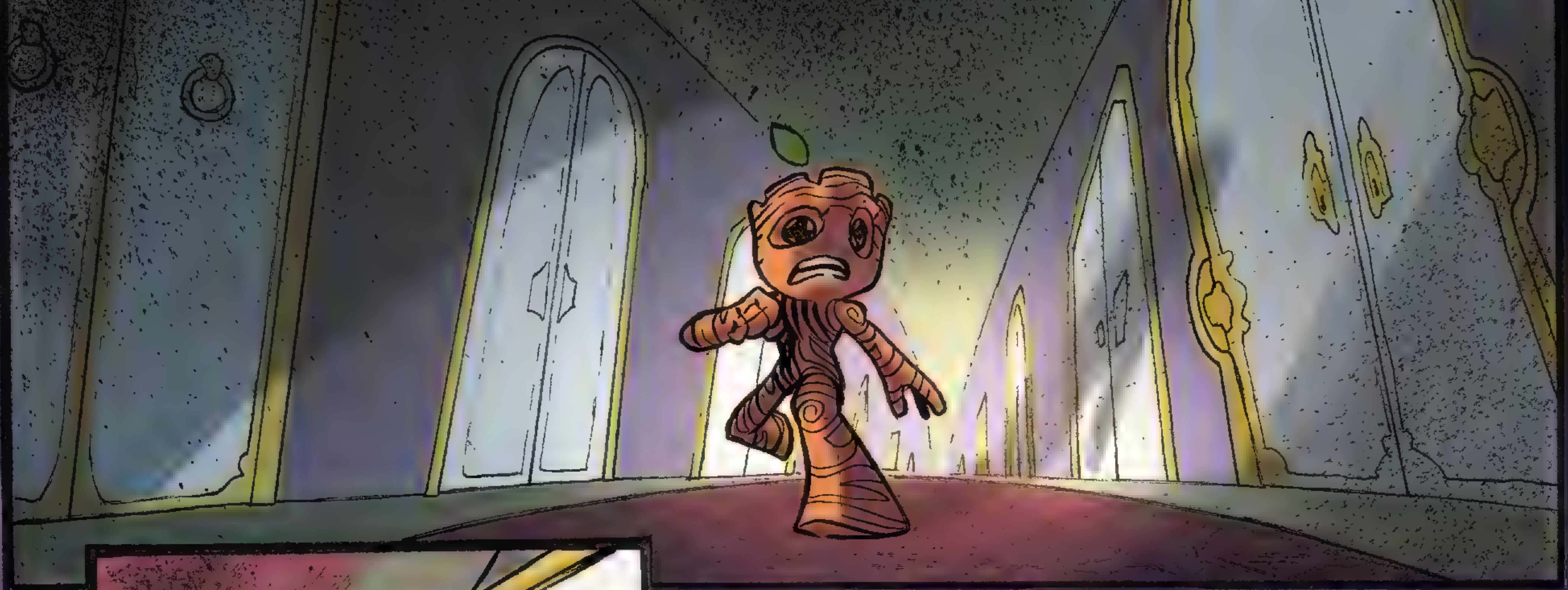
SPLUT

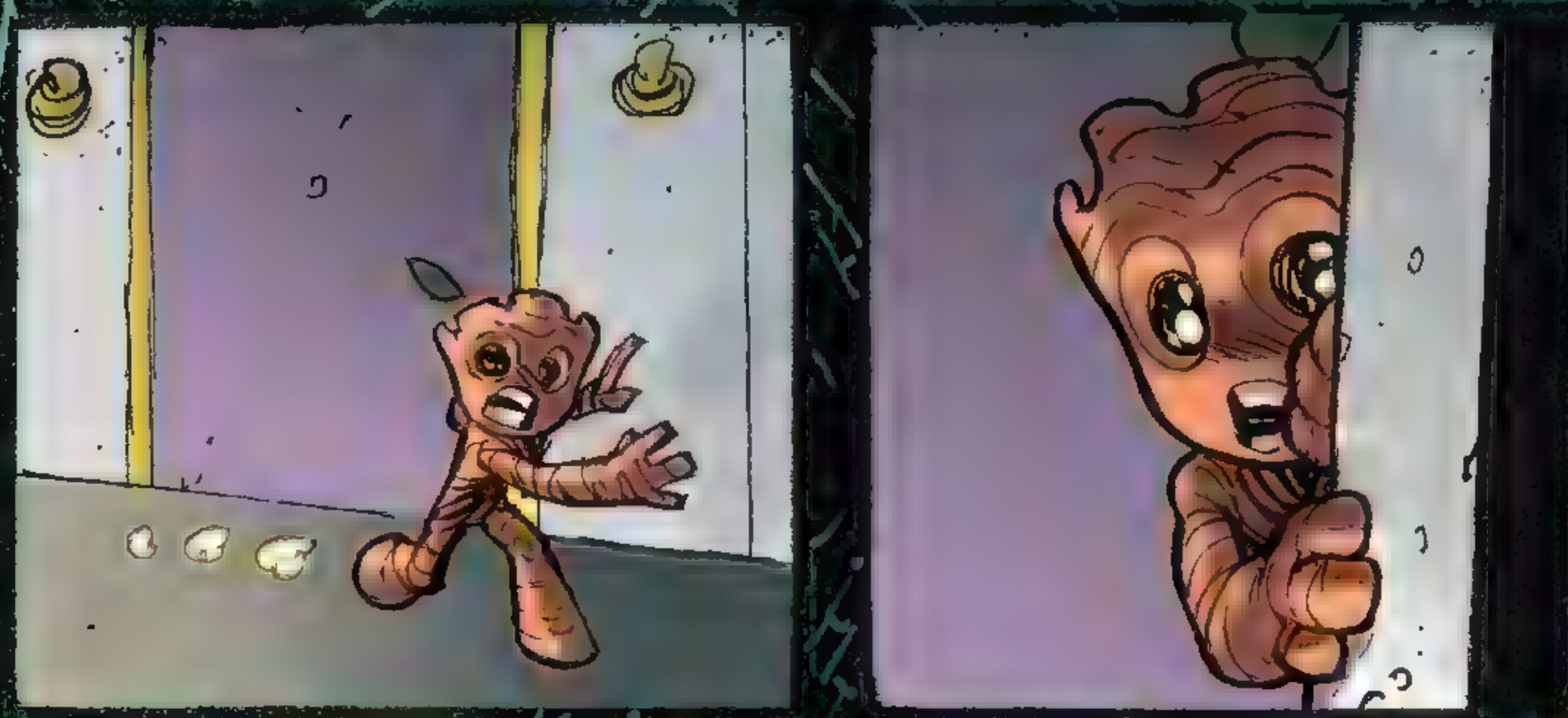


AAAH!



YOU WON'T FIND THE DOOR! THE CARETAKER'S LABYRINTH WILL SEE TO IT!

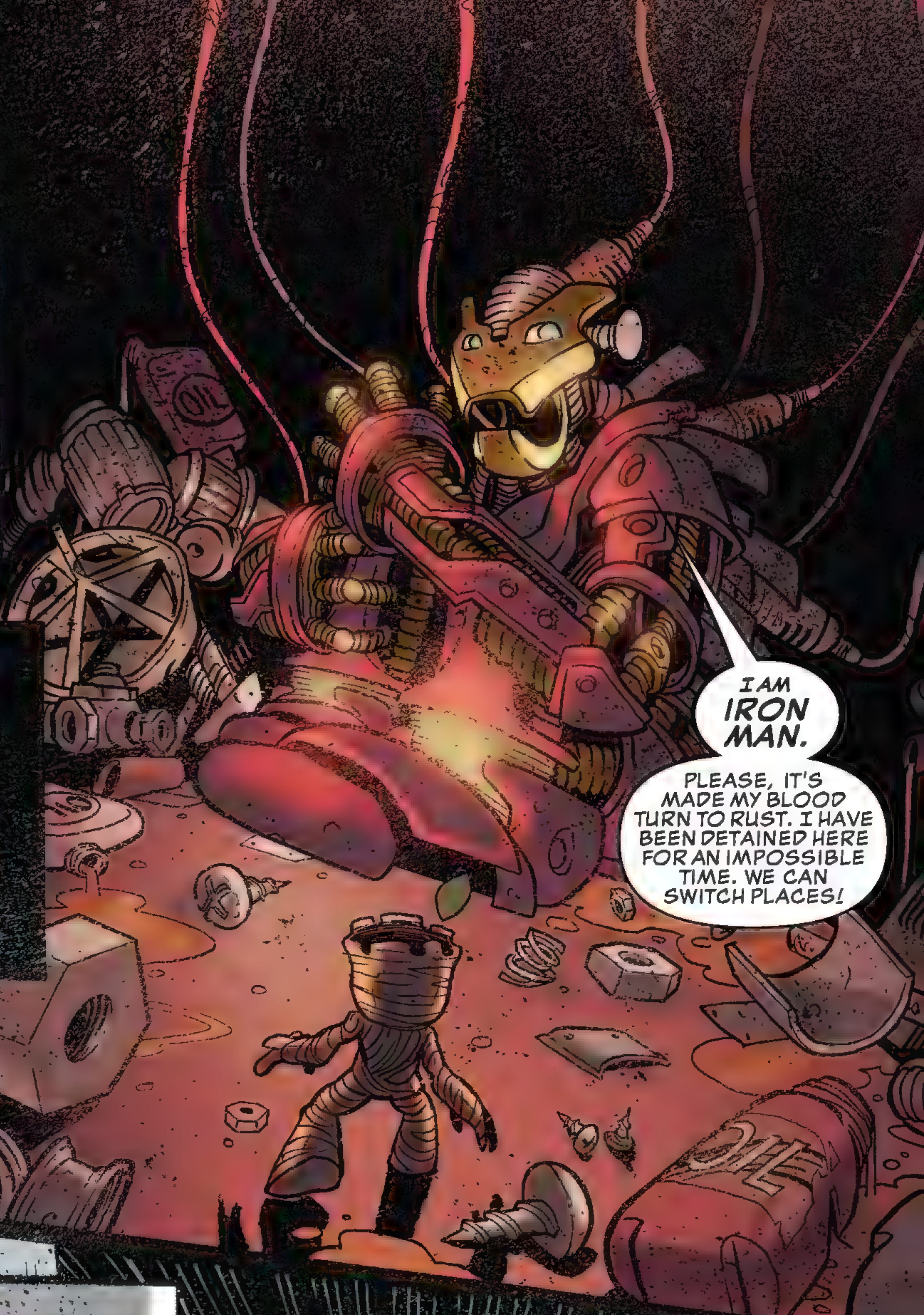




I HAVE TO GET HOME! MY AUNT NEEDS MEDICINE!
JUST A LITTLE SNACK FOR STRENGTH. COME HERE, TWIG...



I AM GROOT.

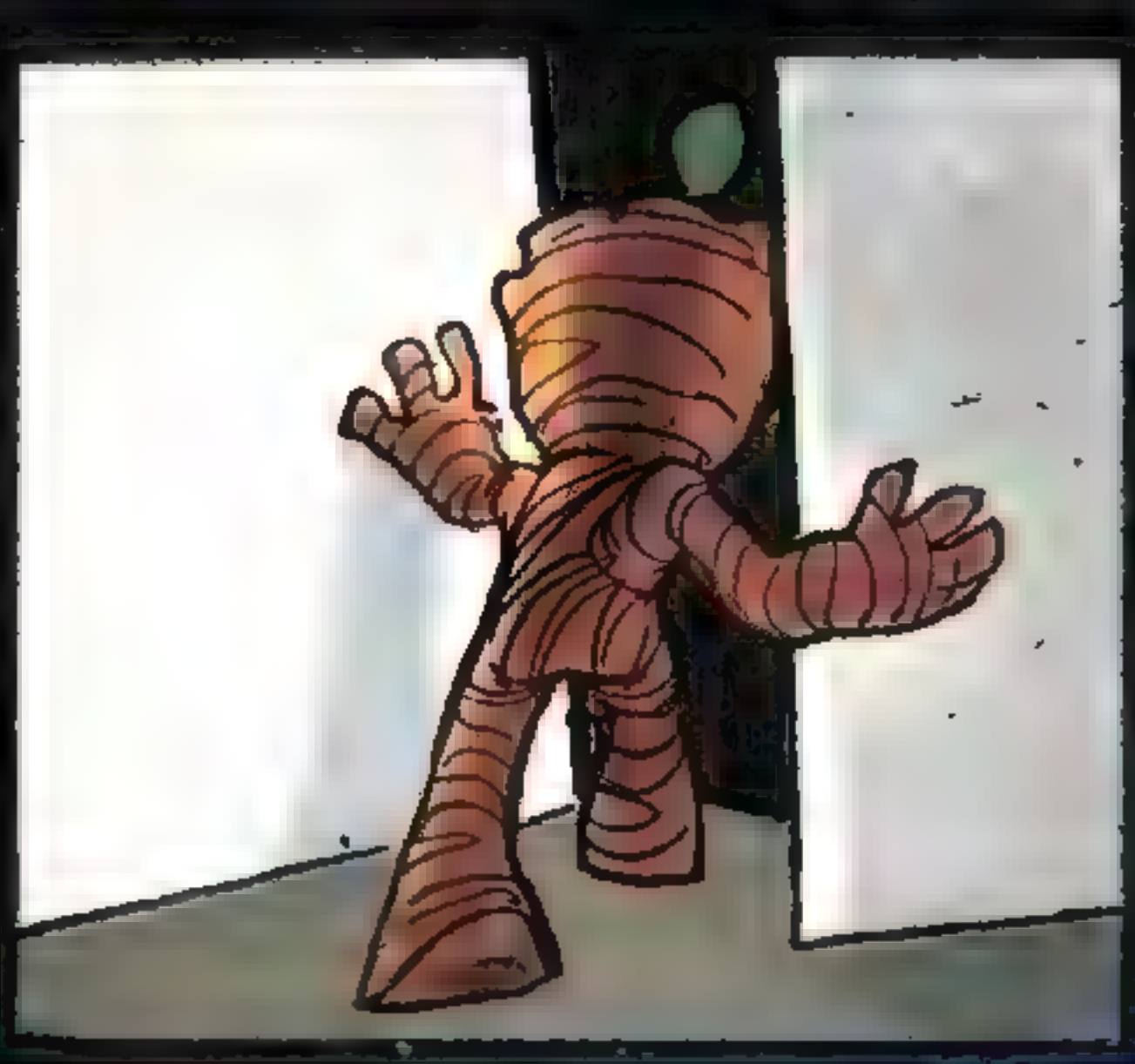


I AM IRON MAN.

PLEASE, IT'S MADE MY BLOOD TURN TO RUST. I HAVE BEEN DETAINED HERE FOR AN IMPOSSIBLE TIME. WE CAN SWITCH PLACES!



I AM GROOT!



I AM THOR!

ALL DAY... MAKE ME LIFF THITH HAMMUH. IT THO HEAVY. IT HURTH AND I AM THOR.

TAKE HAMMUH?



I AM GROOT.



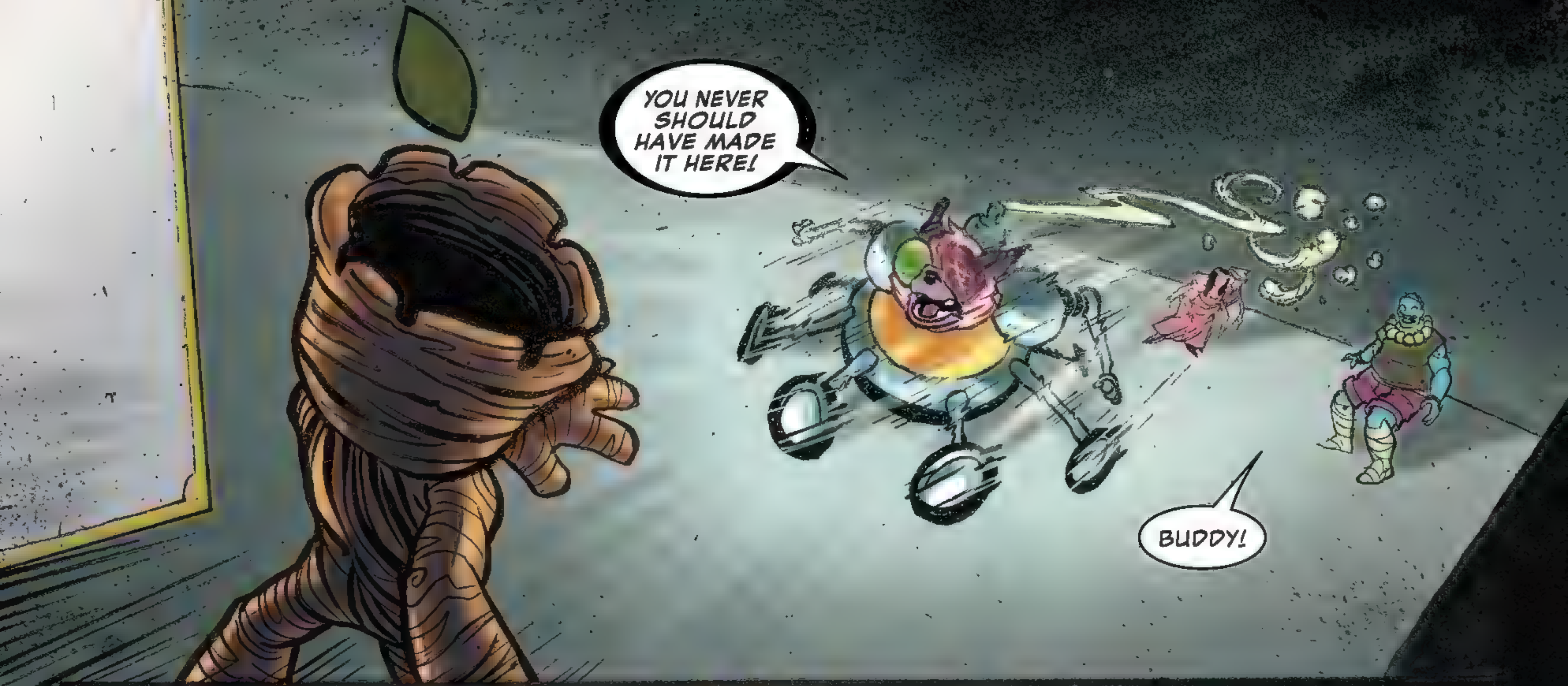
I AM GROOT!



GROOT?

I AM GROOT!

YOU'RE ALIVE?



YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE MADE IT HERE!

BUDDY!



I AM GROOT!

THE SLAUGHTER SEED MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO OPEN THE DOOR OF DOORS--

B-BUDDY?

HI, ADMINISTRATOR! I'M GONNA STOP THE EVIL LITTLE TREE FROM DESTROYING THE WORLD!

OKAY? GOOD?

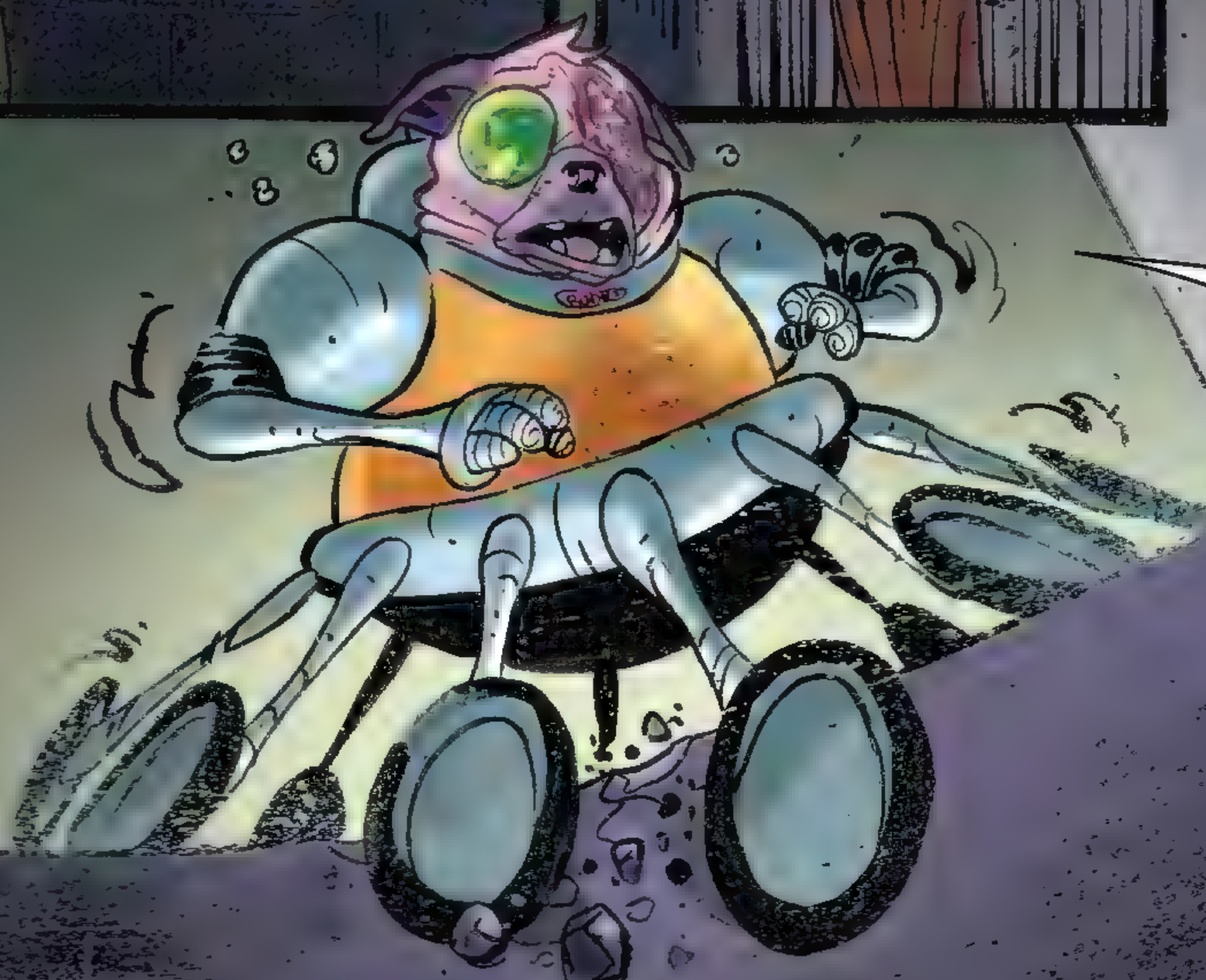
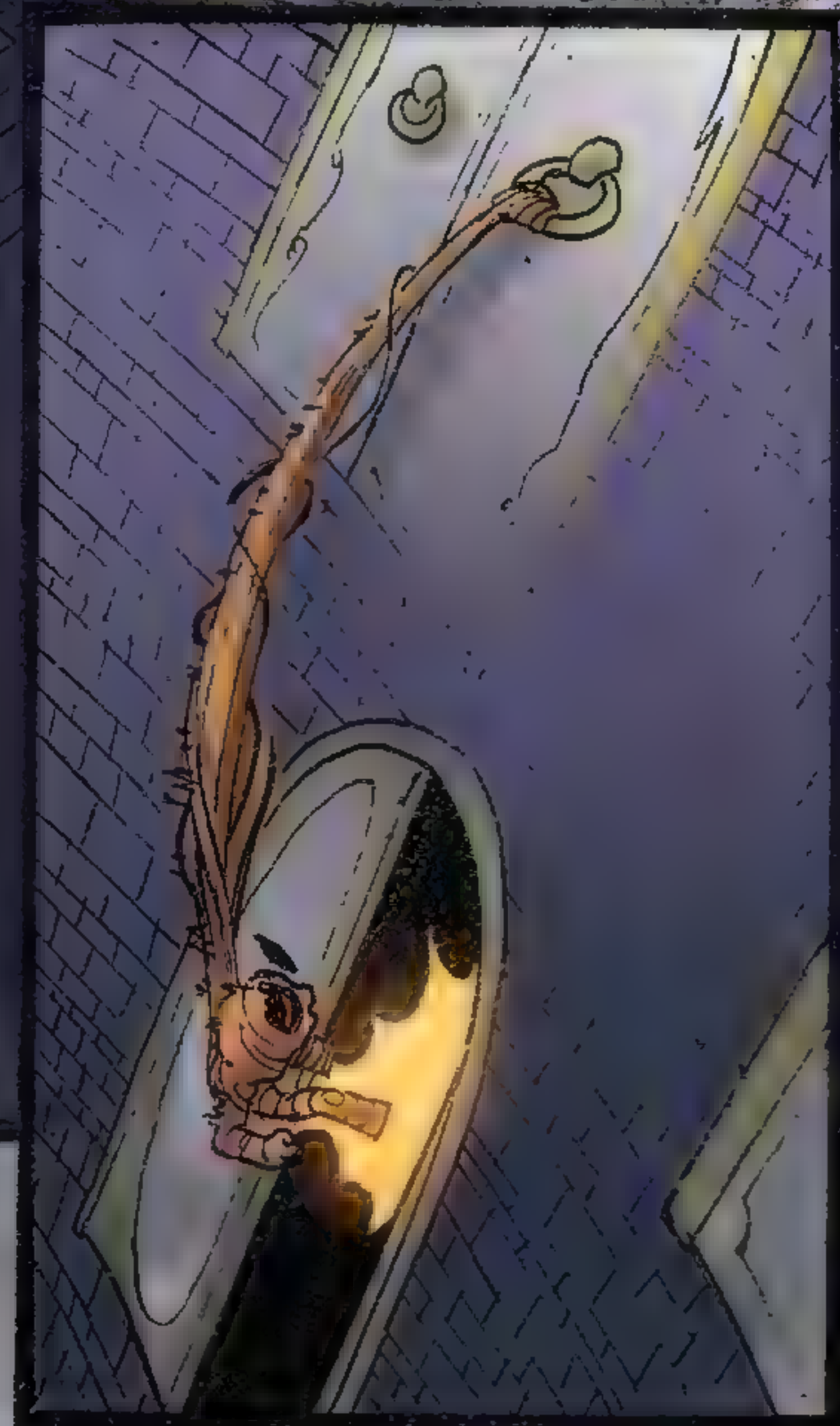
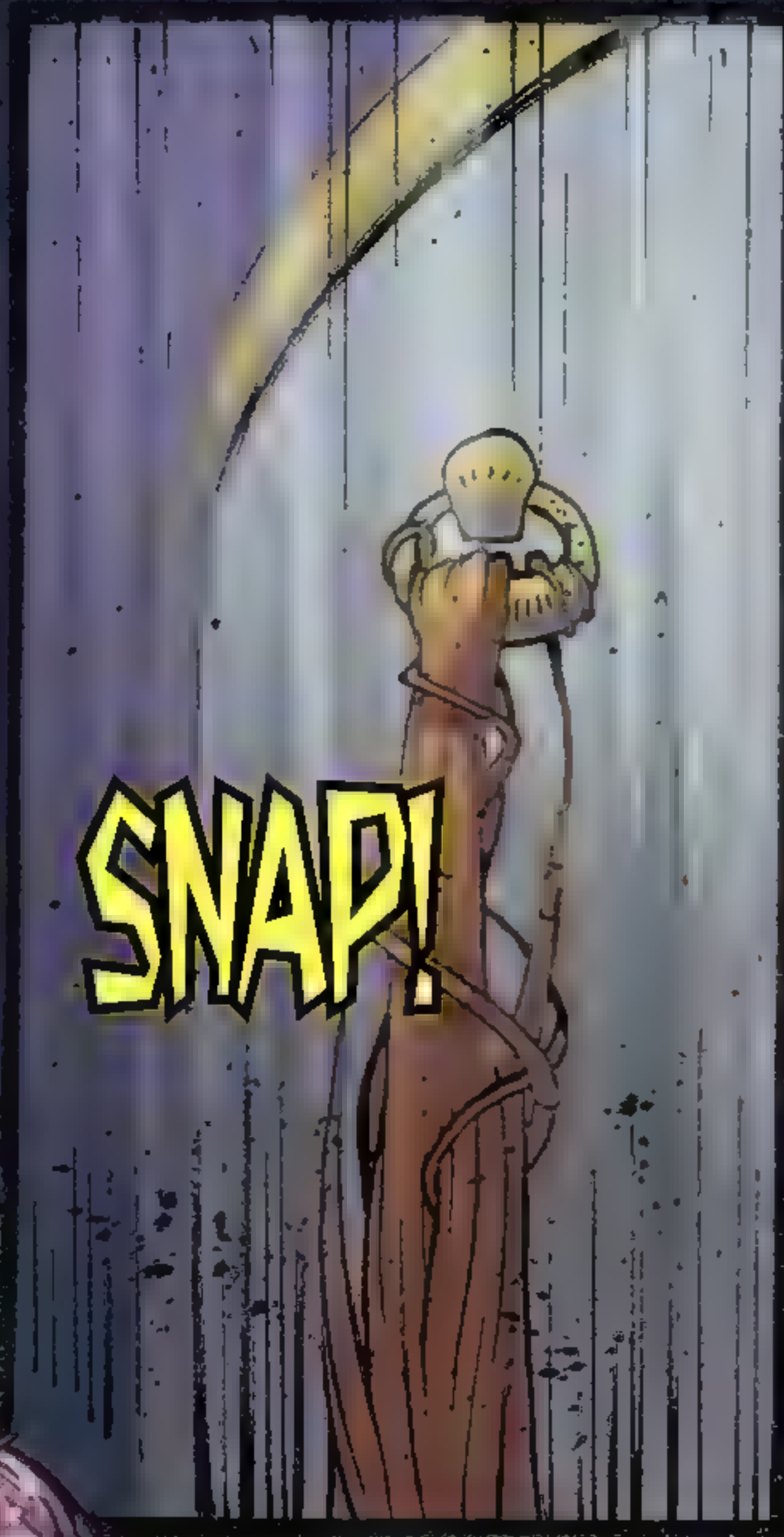
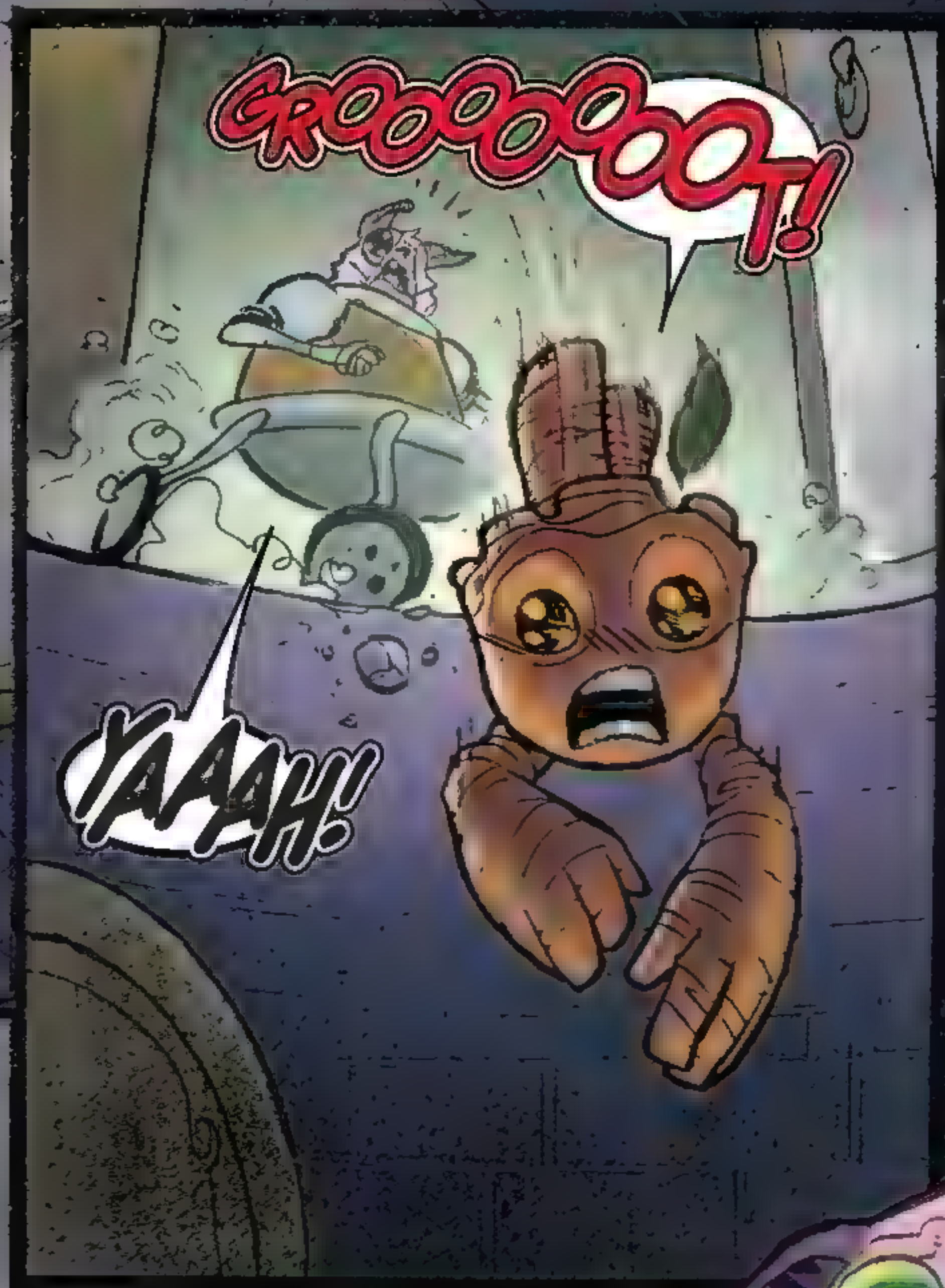


I GUESS WE'RE FREE NOW.

GOODY.

YOU KNOW,
GROOT, WE
CAN *PROBABLY* BE
FRIENDS AGAIN IF YOU
PROMISE TO NOT
FULFILL TERRIBLE
PROPHECIES
AND STUFF!

I AM
GROOT.

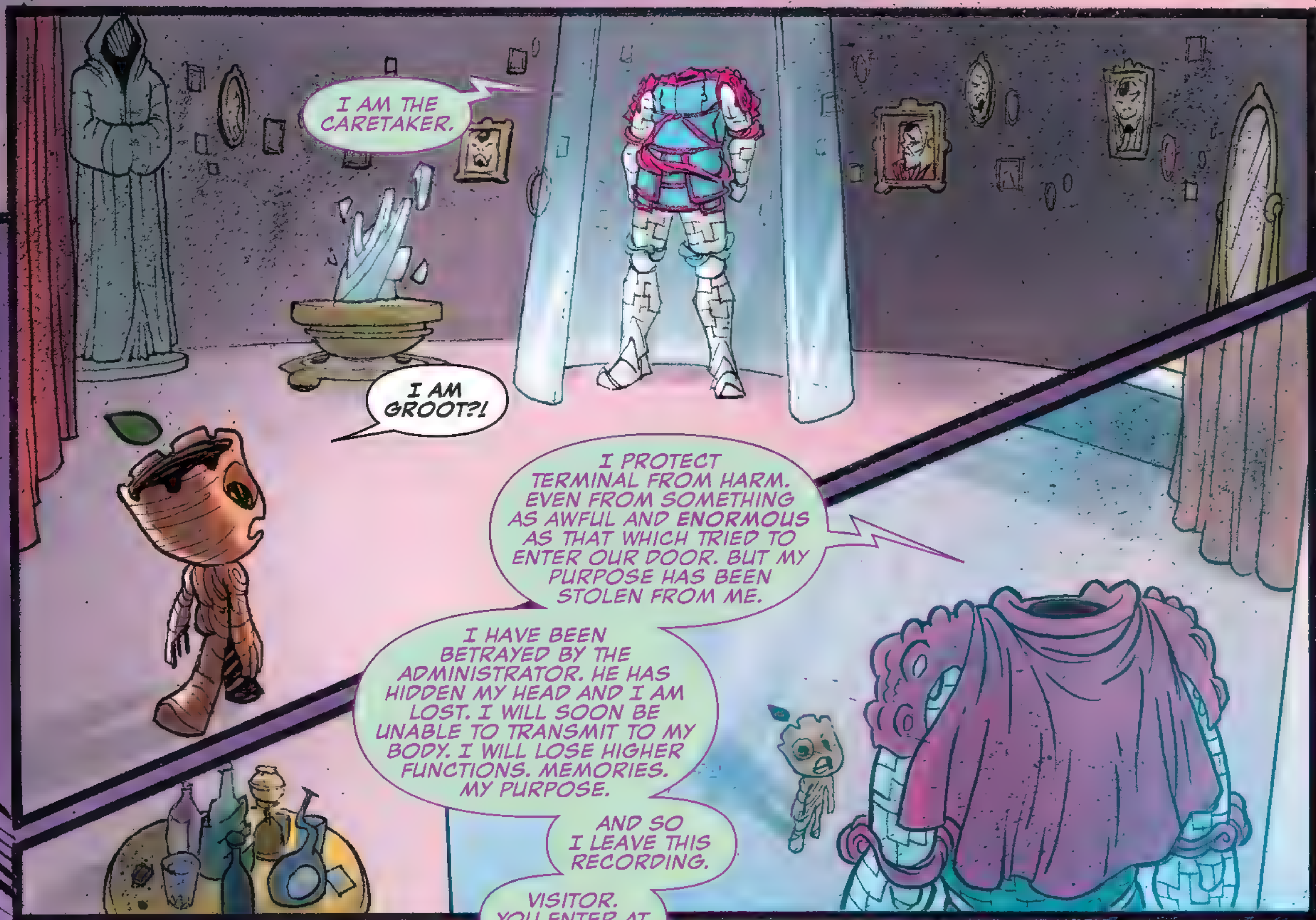


I STILL
CAN'T
UNDERSTAND
YOU.

I ASSUME
THAT WAS
A NO.

SO...JUST
GOTTA...

HM.

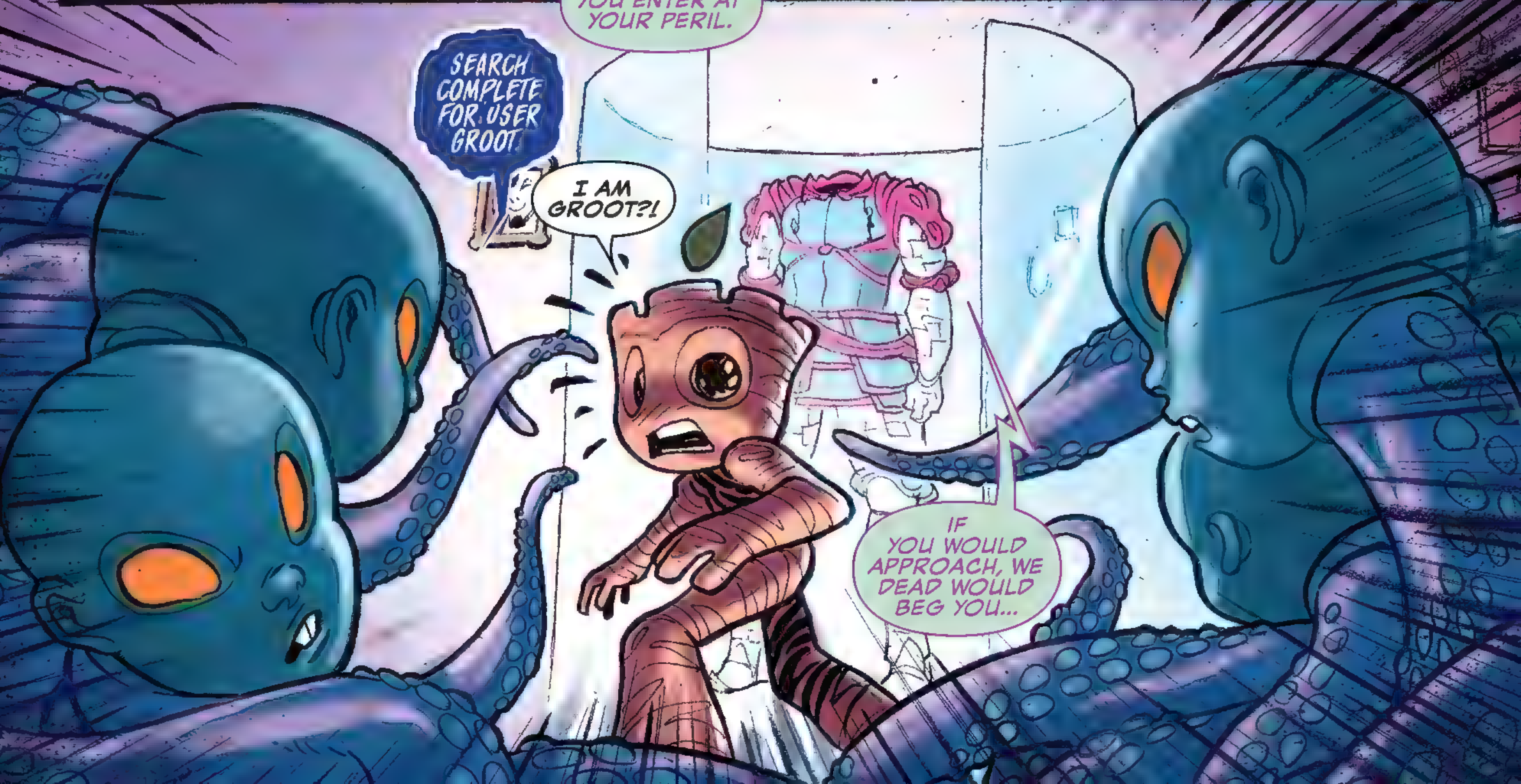


I PROTECT
TERMINAL FROM HARM.
EVEN FROM SOMETHING
AS AWFUL AND ENORMOUS
AS THAT WHICH TRIED TO
ENTER OUR DOOR. BUT MY
PURPOSE HAS BEEN
STOLEN FROM ME.

I HAVE BEEN
BETRAYED BY THE
ADMINISTRATOR. HE HAS
HIDDEN MY HEAD AND I AM
LOST. I WILL SOON BE
UNABLE TO TRANSMIT TO MY
BODY. I WILL LOSE HIGHER
FUNCTIONS. MEMORIES.
MY PURPOSE.

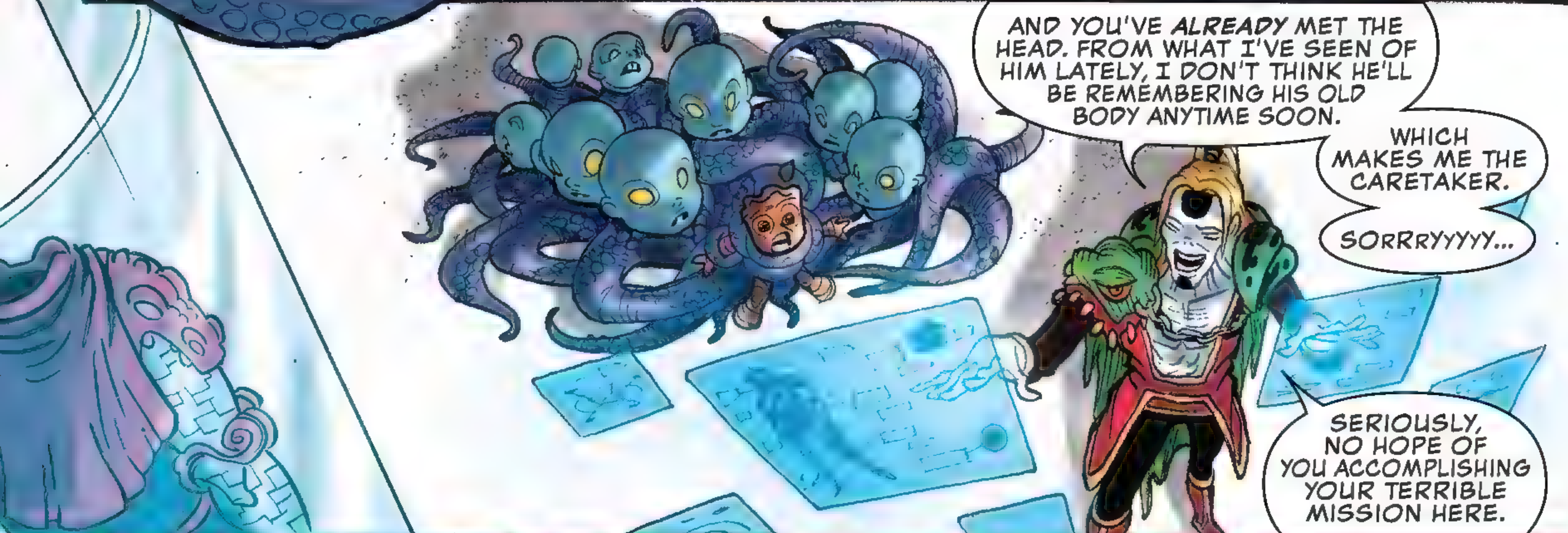
AND SO
I LEAVE THIS
RECORDING.

VISITOR.
YOU ENTER AT
YOUR PERIL.



SEARCH
COMPLETE
FOR USER
GROOT.

IF
YOU WOULD
APPROACH, WE
DEAD WOULD
BEG YOU...



OKAY. SO. THE STORMS. YOU'VE RUN INTO THEM. THEY BROUGHT YOU HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE. LOTTA STORMS.

TERMINAL DOES NOT SIT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SPACE-TIME PORTAL EQUIVALENT OF THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE FOR NOTHING, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

THE TIME STORMS WERE ONCE OUR FRIENDS. WE COULD NOT HAVE BUILT THIS TRAVEL HUB WITHOUT THEIR POWER TO CONNECT ALL OF TIME AND SPACE.

THERE ARE DOORS EVERYWHERE HERE. YOU WANT THE ONE THAT WILL TAKE YOU HOME. THAT DOOR *DRAWS* ITS POWER FROM THE STORMS.

BUT ONE DAY...IT ACCIDENTALLY OPENED ON A VERY *WRONG* PLACE, AND WE HAD TO SHUT IT--CUT OURSELVES OFF FROM THE REST OF THE MULTIVERSE. ALONE IN THIS DIMENSION. BAD, RIGHT?

I AM GROOT.

WRONG! IT'S--

MMMPH

--PERFECTLY PRESERVED AT THE HEIGHT OF ITS GOLDEN AGE.

I AM GROOT!

IT IS NOT TOTALLY WACK. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I AM GROOT?

WHAT?! YOU DON'T LIKE THESE PERFECT ANGELS?! FINE!

RELEASE HIM. YOU TOOK HIS READINGS WHEN HE SHOWED UP. BE HIS FRIENDS AGAIN.

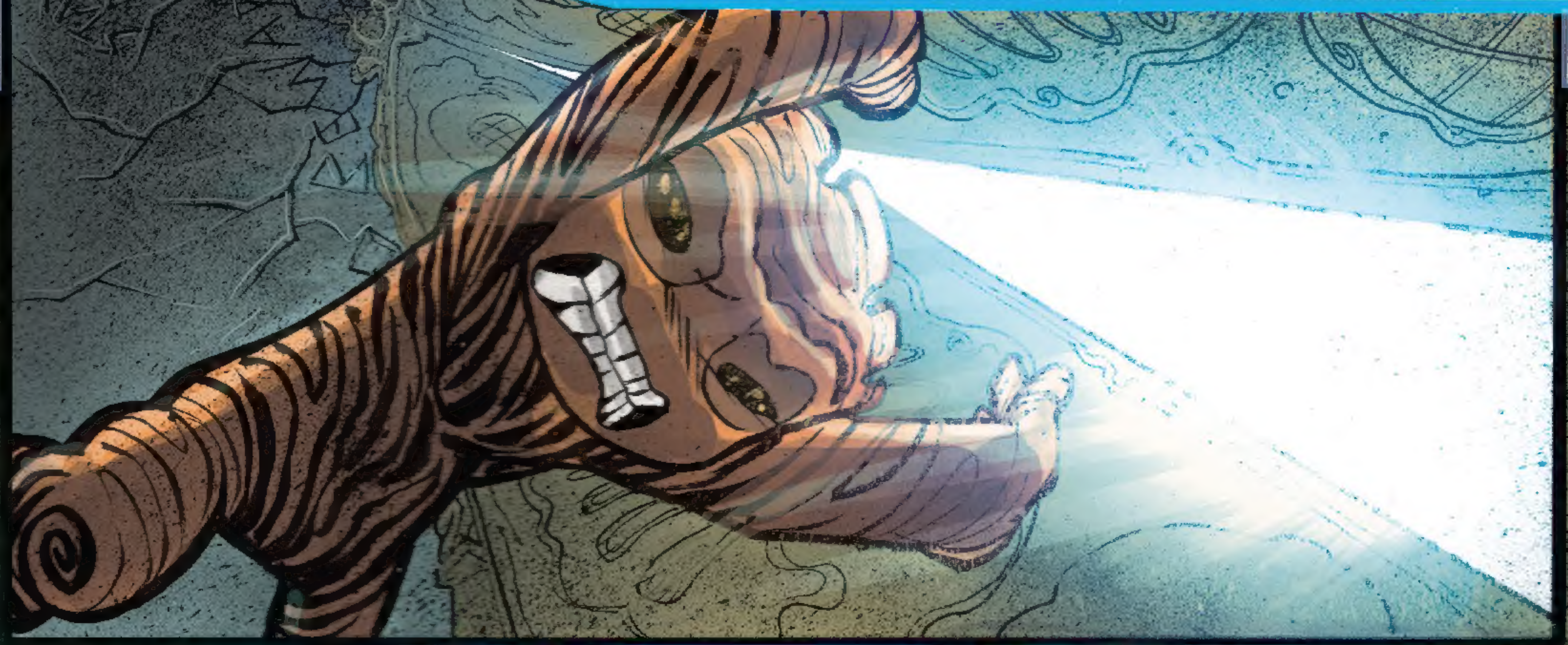
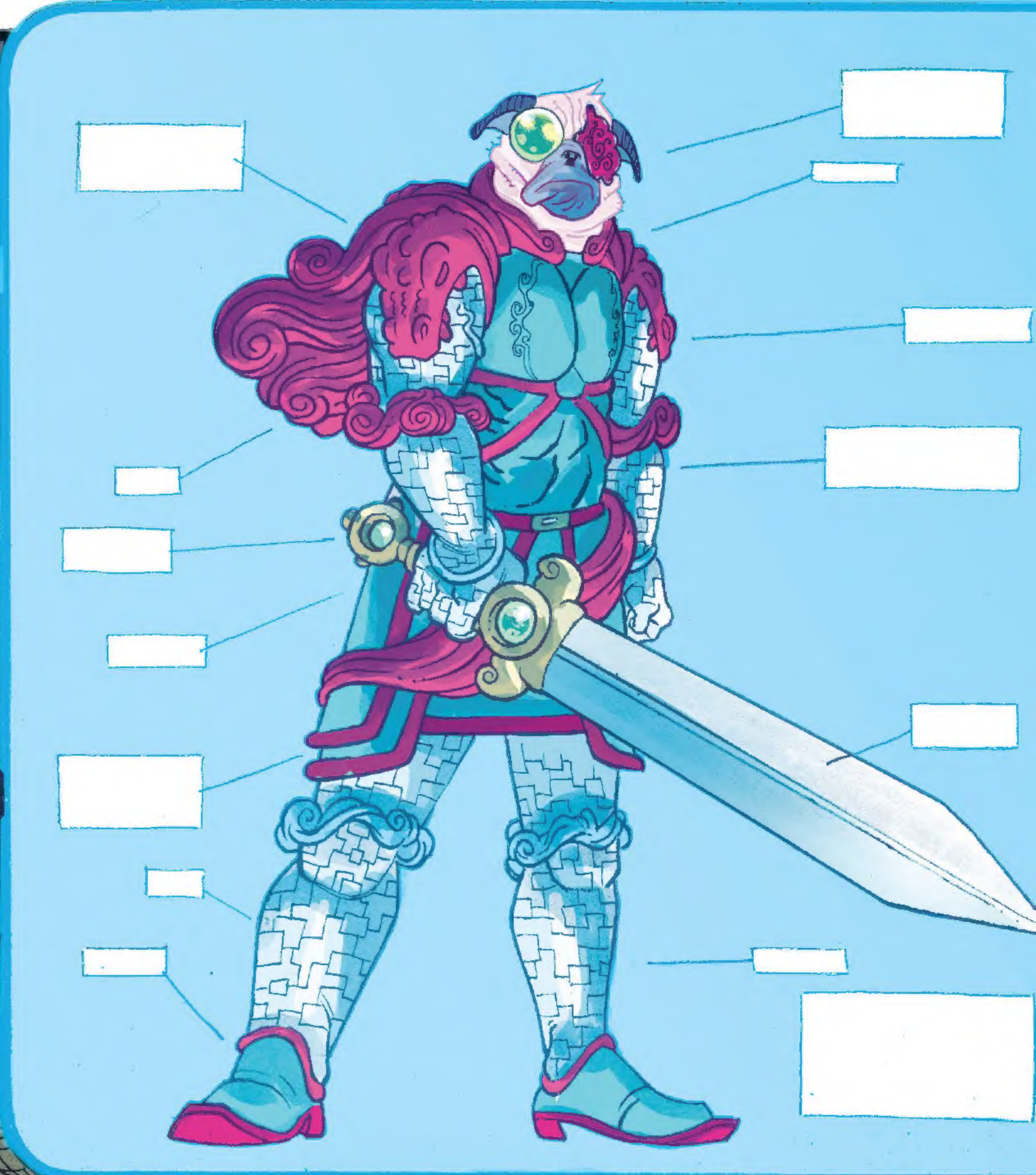
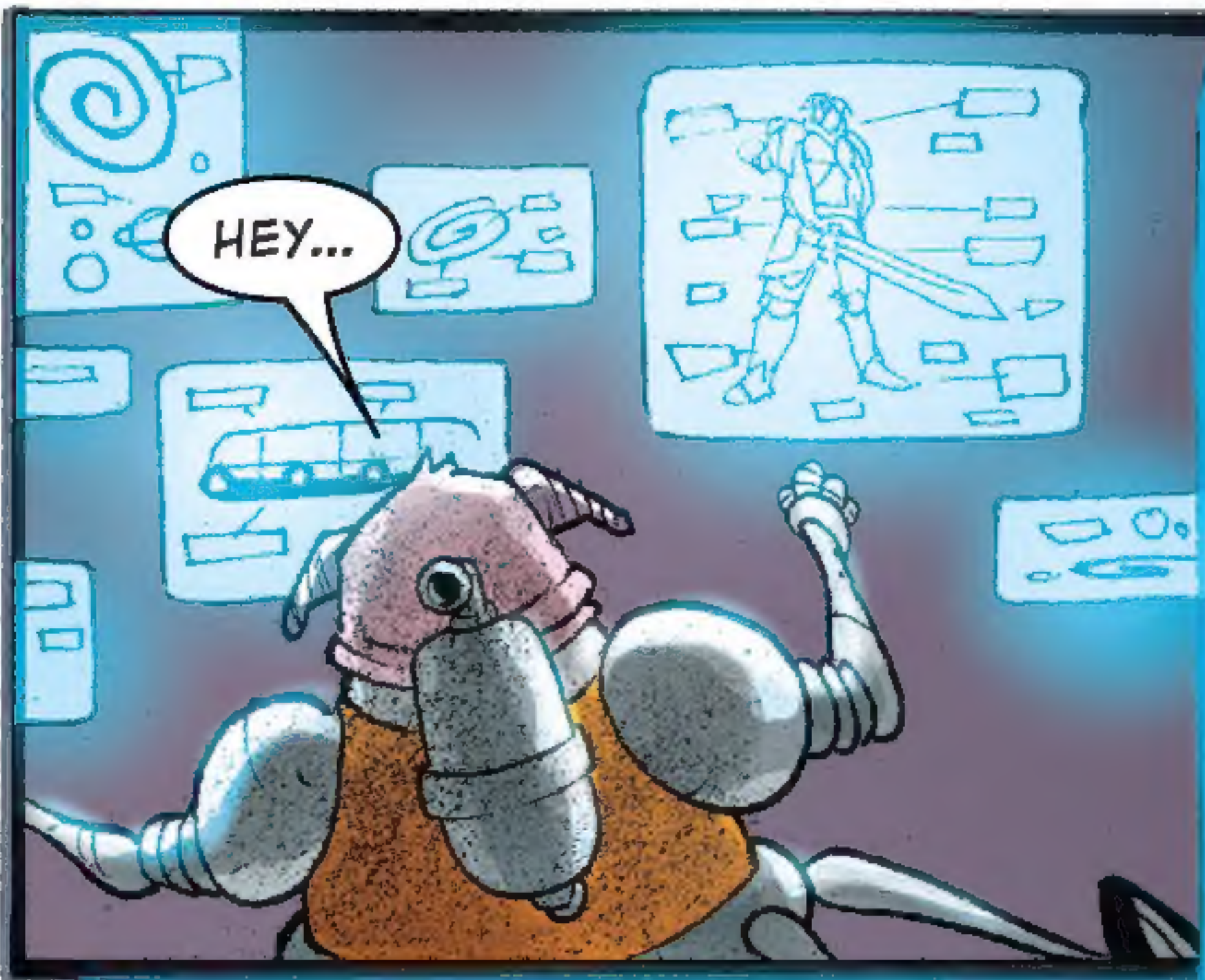
THEY ARE HERE FOR YOUR COMFORT.

WE ARE USER GROOT'S FRIENDS.

THERE IS NO NEED FOR TERMINAL TO BE ANYTHING BUT WHAT IT IS RIGHT NOW, FOREVER! EVERYTHING WE--

HE RAN OFF AGAIN.





**TO BE
CONCLUDED...**

NEXT:

I AM GROOT #5



SEND YOUR LETTERS TO GALACTIC@MARVEL.COM.
MARK YOUR LETTERS "OKAY TO PRINT."

